

had not received a reply. Kieran argued that Rainbow remained within the required 15kHz bandwidth, and Headie Eddie the station's engineer, and manager said that as there were no restrictions imposed upon them Rainbow would continue to occupy a wide bandwidth.

The second frequency dispute involves the use of 6300, by WFRL and Spectrum Leisure Communications/Border Radio. For the past two months there has been mutual interference between the two stations during WFRL's regular second Sunday broadcast. It should be noted that despite announcements WFRL can be heard on 6301 and Spectrum on 6299. WFRL have used the frequency since Easter 1986 on the second Sunday, although there have been some months when the station has not broadcast. This Spectrum's Jay Birkette argues is a valid reason for them to use the frequency on a weekly basis as WFRL have not been listed in the short wave log ings section of Weekly Report. This is true for WFRL's August transmission, however the station was listed in the relevant week's loggings provided for Wavelength by Podney R. Sixe.

Spectrum have offered WFRL with a crystal for an alternative frequency, but WFRL are determined to stay on 6300, and are continuing with their plans to increase their power output to 50 watts. A change which was planned prior to the disagreement with Spectrum.

With no sign of a let up in the frequency disputes one must question the whole basis of Short Wave Free Radio, although it must be stated that Radio Rainbow's bandwidth for their October 11th broadcast would appear to have been reduced.

Former Laser host Scott Shannon, heard on the syndicated "Rockin' America" Chart show now aired on some United Kingdom ILR stations, was spotted on the BBC Six O'Clock News, September 1st. Interviewed at the studios of Z-100 on the release of the new Michael Jackson LP - Bad.

The latest on Radio Sovereign was revealed during the Radio Rainbow Free Radio programme on October 4th. The final tests were broadcast from Ireland on August 16th with Now Radio Communications stating that they wished to concentrate on the United Kingdom. Engineer Headie Eddie had refused to put out any further tapes as he had not received the payment he was expecting. Kieran Murray announced the closure of the Irish end was due to a 'Lack of Funds' - The Cheque bounced!

Spin Magazine, one time advertiser on Radio Caroline and promoter of the Overdrive Spin Radio Concerts, has folded after three and a half years of publication. Spin was launched in the United States in an attempt to become a modern "Rolling Stone". It did however become prey to the many moral pressure groups, who succeeded in having the magazine demoted to the Top shelf in newsagents - mainly as a result of the suggestive female covers which graced the magazine. Despite the saturation advertisement coverage from Caroline, Spin could only be found on import in selected London Newsagents.

A Senior member of the Department of Trade and Industry's Radio Communications division is set to face serious Fraud Charges, against both the Department and other people.

Another former Laser syndicated programme - Mary Turner's Off the Record can be heard via the American Forces Network on Saturday Night at 2300 CET. On October 17th we noted an interview with John Waite. The frequencies are 1107 and 873. AFN Transmits from West Germany.

With Radio One's recent line up changes one name to disappear from the schedules in Ex Caroline DJ Lixie Leach who was part of the original line-up when Caroline returned on 319 in August 1983.

Silence in Court! There was some confusion during the hearing of Radio Orion's recent court case, so much so that operator Mike Wilson pleaded Guilty to owning a Murphy Stereo Cassette Recorder. Mike tells us that he very nearly burst out laughing.



OCTOBER·NOVEMBER 1987

No.18

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Ref 15/4/CU

RADIO INVESTIGATION SERVICE - RECEIPT FOR SEIZURE

Description of items seized (including type and serial no.)

1- G.M.I.C. TRANSMITTER + PSU 1- MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMTT  
+ PSU, 1- SILENA VEGA RIS RECEIVER  
1- BSR DECK - WB3258/304 1- FERGUSON CASSETTE DECK  
MOD. 3250 JK SN/5287 1- PHILIPS C/DECK NR 204/00  
C/P 227224 1- REALISTIC S/N R404999 704

Found at:

(Address/Vehicle type, colour and registration)

113 UPPER KUTON ROAD  
CHATHAM.

In the possession of

SCOTTION H. DRUM

Person alleged by possessor

to be the owner

of address

The above items have been seized and detained in accordance with the provisions of the 1984 Telecommunications Act, and they may be held for up to 6 months from this date or, should legal proceedings be instituted, until such time as those proceedings are completed.

Signed

Status (Constable/DTI Officer)

INDUSTRIAL OFFICER

Constable's Warrant No.

Date

12/9/87

Any enquiry regarding this seizure should be made in writing to Radio Invest.  
igation Service, Box No.

CHATHAM/1/00  
(to be completed by RIS Officer)

Form RIS 22

M718

Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.



# WAVELENGTH

October/November 1987 - Number 18.

WAVELENGTH EDITOR: Adrian Cooke.

FEATURE WRITERS: Neil Frazer, Andy Walker, Steve West and Mark Thyme.  
Short Wave Loggings: Podney R. Sixe.

Published by Wavelength, Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE36 5AU.

To prove that we really do read all of your letters you will notice a slight change this edition to our Short Wave coverage with a reversion back to a more news orientated section. In addition you will find two Short Wave features this time around. On the recent Short Wave Raids, together with the Radio Orion Court case, and the dispute over the 'right' to channels by some stations in the 48 metre band. It was part of our original brief three years ago to provide comprehensive Short Wave coverage, and this we think again fills a large gap in the free radio market.

Likewise we see the long awaited ( and requested ) return of DIY Radio, with Mark Thyme joining our regular team of feature writers for a new technical series.

Don't forget that your letters are always welcome, and we do try to answer as many of your queries as possible, despite limited time at this end.

Adrian Cooke.

3. OFFSHORE Diary;  
Mv Ross Revenge,
4. People,
5. Technical Points,  
Viewpoint,  
Sealand,
6. Mv Communicator,
7. Mv Peace,  
ON THE BANDS Short Wave,  
Great Britain,
8. Ireland,  
Europe,
9. Address Book,  
Listeners Guide,

10. Medium Wave/FM;  
London,  
Merseyside,
  11. Countrywide.
  12. DIY RADIO: Low Power FM Transmitter
  14. THE INTERVIEW: MARTIN BLOCK.
  16. PLAYING THE MUSIC
  17. SHORT WAVE RAIDS;  
Radio Pamela and Radio Radar,  
Radio Orion Court Case.
  18. TOP FORTY BLUES.
  19. BATTLE OF THE CHANNELS
  20. . . . AND FINALLY
- Front Illustration;  
Radio Pamela's DTI receipt.

## YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION:

United Kingdom - £4.00

Europe, including Ireland - £4.30/ 18 International Reply Coupons

Rest of the World - £4.90/ 20 International Reply Coupons

## SINGLE COPIES

United Kingdom - 65p

Europe, including Ireland and the Rest of the World - 3 International Reply Coupons.

Make Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'Wavelength'  
Cash, at sender's risk. Please tape all coins to Card.  
Mint United Kingdom Postage Stamps also accepted.  
Surcharge for Foreign Currency cheques: £1.50 each.

## ADVERTISING RATES:

Full Page - £5.00

Half Page - £3.00

Quarter Page - £1.50

Small advertisements are printed Free of Charge subject to space.

Copy for reproduction must be of suitable quality and twice the required size.

# M.V. ROSS REVENGE

Short Wave tests. . . Another move to five hour airshifts.

Jackie Lee sounded decidedly ill during her 0900 programme on August 20th, and did not make any lengthy speeches until after 1200. It was Kevin Turner's day to suffer on August 26th. He spent most of his Breakfast Show complaining about how rough the sea was, so for once the Radio Monique team, normally the main source of Kevin's amusement, had it easy. The anchor alarm went off during the 0800 News. The alarm is kept in the chart room, which doubles as the Newsroom and is set off at any unexpected move in the ship's position, caused by events such as a break in the anchor chain. Luckily there was no cause for panic on this occasion, although the rest of the crew spent the remainder of the day hanging on for dear life as the studio continued to move into irregular angles.

With the weather back to a state of calmness there were some staff changes on September 1st with Peter Phillips and Andy Robin returning to the fold, whilst Kevin Turner and Paul Graham left for dry land. As a result there was an alteration in the programme schedule, which read;

0500 Peter Phillips	News;
0900 Jackie Lee	Steve Conway
1300 Keith Francis	
1700 Simon West	
2100 Andy Robin.	

With Peter Phillips back in his role of on board Programme Controller (Kevin Turner is in charge during his absence) 24 hour broadcasts returned at the weekends from September 4th. Steve Conway filled in the missing hours from 0100 to 0500 through the night whilst Jackie Lee read the lunchtime news at 1300 to enable Steve to get some sleep.

Some Short Wave tests were carried out from the Ross Revenge on September 6th on the frequency of 9940. The transmissions, which took place during the evening used only a temporary aerial - See Technical Points -.

Advertisements for the World Wildlife Fund's Sponsored walk, and the Brighton Records Fayre were no longer noted from the week commencing September 14th, leaving BET Canada's Lotto 649 promotion as the only one aired.

September 16th saw some further staff changes with Keith Francis and Simon West leaving and Tony Peters and Chris Kennedy joining the ship. Andy Robin hosted the 1300 programme on this day with Tony Peters following at 1700, and new man Chris at 2100. The schedule was rearranged the following day to read;

0500 Peter Phillips	News;
0900 Jackie Lee	Steve Conway
1300 Tony Peters	
1700 Andy Robin	
2100 Chris Kennedy	

The schedules normally vary at the weekends with the breakfast show host switching with the mid morning presenter. There are often further variations. September 23rd saw a change of programmes between Andy Robin and Chris Kennedy, apart from which the line up remained unchanged until the following week.

Jackie Lee presented her last programme for a while on September 29th, and with no replacement Caroline 558 moved to 5 hour splits the following day. The line up reading;

0500 Peter Phillips	News;
1000 Tony Peters	Steve Conway.
1500 Chris Kennedy	
2000 Andy Robin	



Peter Phillips used the excuse that he had an easy time of it the previous day (both Monique and Caroline did not commence programming until 0630 UK Time) Monique were not noted until 0700 on October 8th, and commenced transmissions with an hourly continuous music interspersed with News and Traffic flashes.

October 13th saw the departure of both Tony Peters and Andy Robin, and the arrival of two new staff Tim Allen and Tony West. This meant another revision for the schedule;

0500 Peter Phillips  
1000 Chris Kennedy  
1500 Tim Allen  
2000 Tony West

News;  
Steve Conway.

The severe winds reached to gale force 11 on October 15th and 16th. Tony West resorted to playing Album sides during his programme on October 15th, and with a tender standing by this proved to be his last after just three days. Peter Phillips was "Hanging on for dear life" during his breakfast show the following morning. The travel news was summed up simply as "No trains South of Rugby" The station closed at 0730 as did Radio Monique on 963. A return was made at 0830, but with the transmitter continuing to cut out a further close was made at 1500. Tests were aired early the next morning and full programming was reinstated before breakfast. Steve Conway and Mike Ross shared the spot vacated by Tony West. Mike's normal job being as engineer. It is not known if the station went 24 hours over this weekend.

Staff changes again were responsible for the revision of the schedule, but programming had now returned to 4 hour splits from October 20th. Jackie Lee returned after her three week break and Chris Kennedy left the ship. The schedule

0500 Peter Phillips  
0900 Jackie Lee  
1500 Tim Allen  
1700 Simon West  
2100 Nigel Harris

News;  
Steve Conway.

(0100 Pat Brooks)

In addition to Jackie, Simon West also made a reappearance in the line-up and Nigel Harris joined the station for the first time. On Wednesday 24 hour operation was announced and the following day a new advertisement for a book 'Who's Really Who' - giving background information on well known personalities and published by Sphere Paperbacks. A further advertisement offered good deals on Panasonic VHS Video recorders by calling 0494 444370.

## PEOPLE

Chris Kennedy joins Caroline 558 from Ireland, where he was the Breakfast Show host for BL3 in Dublin. Readers may be surprised to learn that his brother is none other than Caroline Newsreader Steve Conway. We were put on to the fact when Chris very nearly identified himself under his real name.

Tim Allen is another certified Anorak, who has made it to the North Sea on more than just a boat trip. In the past Tim could be heard on Radio Floss, the medium wave station which broadcast to North East London in the early eighties. More recently he has been presenting for the Short Wave station, Radio Duck.

Tony West misses the award for the shortest stint of the year (the current holder is Dave Wilson for just one programme in June) Tony was only heard on October 13th, 14th and 15th, with what we regarded as very good programmes, Tony distinguished himself by identifying himself, and the station after the bell. During his first programme Tony played dedications for his wife and friends on the Isle of Wight.

Anoraks UK Report that Tony was last with Radio Caroline during June 1973, for a brief 3 1/2 hours.

## TECHNICAL POINTS

Several Short Wave tests were made from the Ross Revenge during September. On the 6th 9940 was used with a power of 3 kilowatts, and later in the month 6205 and 6220, where the power was about 2 kw. The transmitter used is a converted RCA 10 kw unit previously used as a standby for 963.

The tests resulted in two problems becoming apparent. Firstly there was some breakthrough from the medium wave service, and secondly some strain put upon the generators, so work here will need to be carried out before further transmissions are made. The Short Wave will be used to carry religious programming under the name of World Mission Radio. We understand that 18 hours of airtime per week has already been sold, and a possibility of the medium wave service being relayed for the remainder of the time.

Power of the 558 service remains unchanged with the priority currently being put onto the Shortwave service. Meanwhile 963 has been working on reduced power in the past few weeks, but an increase in power was noted on October 13th.

Following the introduction of 600Kw of power by Radio Finland Engineers on board the Ross Revenge are considering whether a move to another channel should take place. Certainly night-time reception of Viewpoint is all but impossible outside the South East of England. Channels so far mentioned have been 981, which the Communicator also has her eye on, and 819kHz.

## VIEWPOINT

On Sunday August 31st we noted the religious transmissions continuing until 0000 (UK Time) with Stephen Morgan's 'The Passage' making up the final hour. Unlike a majority of Viewpoint's contributors, who are American, Mr. Morgan has a clear English accent.

During mid September Radio Finland increased the power of their 963 transmitter to 600Kw, a change which was originally suggested for early 1987. The result has meant severe difficulties from darkness hours. Even listeners in the South East have to angle their radio sets in the correct direction in order to hear the Viewpoint programmes, and even then Radio Finland's broadcasts can still be heard in the background.

No programmes from Johann Maasbach were heard from October 8th to 12th, however the 'Hour of Gospel Songs and Meditation' (The programme actually lasts for only 15 minutes during the week, and 30 minutes on Sundays) returned to its regular 1900 timeslot on October 13th. On this date we heard the service identified as "Viewpoint- The Voice of Evangelism". The Passage ended on October 12th.

The continental change to Winter time on September 27th meant that Radio Moniques Programmes, and in turn those of Viewpoint commenced one hour later, although Viewpoint's pre-recorded timechecks remained unaltered, which provided us with some confusing listening. Monique commence broadcasting at 0500, and Viewpoint at 1900.

## SEALAND

Radio Netherlands reported on current developments on the former North Sea fort in their Media Network programme on October 8th. A Colour brochure promoting Sealand TV and Radio has been distributed in the Netherlands. The company is supposedly based in Ireland, but the offices are in London.

Sealand Channel 5 is looking for 10 million viewers, mainly in the London area, some 60 miles away from the declared Independent Principality. Ex Caroline jock Richard Jackson spoke to Sealand's Managing Director Ken Hanlon who told him that his broadcast power would be between 6 and 7 megawatts, the largest in the world. In order to fit everything in another platform is currently being fitted out in Germany. Leaving the rest of Sealand unchanged. A Communication bridge will join the two parts.



The Television centre will have an 800 foot tower, and will cost £4.7 million - negotiations are going ahead with the Confederation of Aerial Industries, whose only concern is that the proposed Channel 28 UHF is too close to many local TV relay stations. The CAI are currently discussing possible implications with the Department of Trade and Industry.

As for reception on the continent. Prospective viewers on the Dutch Coast would find some difficulties as the Netherlands uses a different TV system. The Dutch Cable Industry has not been approached.

The DTI have stated that they are treating the proposals with concern and have threatened to raid the station should it come on air. The current target date for the commencement of Sealard TV is at the beginning of December.

## M.V. COMMUNICATOR

On August 12th the Communicator moved from her position off the coast of Dunkirk to a new position off the British Mainland at the Cabbard Sandbank. After a while the Communicator sailed again to set anchor in between the Galloper and North Falls sandbanks. This was found to be too rough, therefore on August 30th, the Communicator upped anchor to a new location in the South Falls ½ a mile from the Ross Revenge.

In mid September the Communicator was reported as being back in the Knock Deep, then on September 12th the ship was involved in a local rescue operation. The 30 foot catamaran Elizabeth had got into problems early on the Saturday afternoon, reports the East Coast Yellow Advertiser. The Elizabeth was 15 miles from the coast of Harwich, and sent out a distress call which was picked up by coastguards at Walton On the Naze. The Harwich lifeboat was launched and the Communicator offered her assistance. The radio ship was able to create a lee for the Elizabeth, so that the sea was not so rough. Four people and a dog were rescued.

The new UK Territorial Sea limit was introduced on October 1st, so on the day prior to this the Communicator left the Knock Deep to find a new location outside of British Waters. The second location found was at the South Galloper bank, it was here however that the Communicator lost an anchor in the heavy seas, a spare was dropped and the vessel remained stable.

A new owner, the third since the vessel sailed into Harwich in November 1985, joined the project during September, and is a large American Evangelical group who have put a considerable amount of money into the project, enough to sustain it for eighteen months on the air, without advertising revenue.

Two services will form the onboard stations, the first Starforce 576 - with a Top Forty/Laser type format. In addition to the AM service there is also talk of an FM outlet. The second is Harmony 981, although the actual frequency could be in doubt, depending on how quickly the Caroline engineers decide on if to move from 963kHz. Harmony will run an easy listening format, interspersed with Prayers and religious talks. With Radio 2 heading for an increasingly older audience, Harmony might very well fill a large gap in broadcasting in the United Kingdom.

Names mentioned as being involved with the two stations are DJ Paul Jackson, who has spent a great deal of time in board the Communicator since Laser Hot Hits went off the air last April, Andrew Turner, who had briefly returned to Independent Radio News in London, and former Laser 558 engineer Mighty Joe Young.

The aerial system was finally delivered to the ship in early October, and this has been lashed to the ship, but there is now the possibility that the ship will need to go to Spain for some work to be carried out.

During the storms of October 16th the Communicator drifted some 20 miles, and is now located near to the North Sands Head. The studio suffered some damage.

An on air date of October 1st has already passed, and a November start is now looking increasingly unlikely.

## M.V. PEACE

A Staff shortage in late August meant that the jocks on board the Peace Ship were presenting 7½ hours of programming a day. The choppy seas at that time could not have made the job any easier for the three presenters. By September 5th, the team had increased to five, which eased matters considerably.

In the past few weeks an American DJ was arrested by Police who boarded the ship, and deported for robbery. The captain suffered a Heart Attack, but has recovered and is back on board the ship. In addition a member of the Press has visited the ship for publicity reasons.

On the night of September 4th Abie Nathan made a 'phone in broadcast, remembering the Nazi Jew victims, spoilt for the DJs by his continual shouting over the motorola system.

In mid September Abie visited the United Kingdom in order to recruit new staff and purchase broadcast equipment. In addition a new 10 kilowatt AM transmitter has just been installed.

FM	83	92	96	100	104	108	MHz		
SW	60	65	80	100	130	180	MHz		
MW	54	60	70	80	100	120	140	160	kHz
LW	150	170	190	220	250	270	285	kHz	

## GREAT BRITAIN

SPECTRUM LEISURE COMMUNICATIONS are now heard every Sunday on 6299, along with BORDER RADIO who now share the facilities on this latest Spectrum project. Border's presenter is Harry Marshall, who for many years operated a local community station in the Twickenham area, until 1984 when the station was closed with the introduction of the new Telecommunications Act. Harry has a very relaxed style of presentation "WCLN 3XX . . . with two kisses at the end" was a recent example whilst reading the address. Unfortunately co-channel interference between the station and WFRL on 6301 occurred on both September 13th, and October 11th which spoilt reception. (1) - See Feature Battle of the Channels-

The SCOTTISH FREE RADIO NETWORK opened up its new 48 metre band service on September 20th, following some weeks of tests of their 6318 frequency. WLR (2) was the first station heard on the channel. DJs with the station are Gary St. John, who can sometimes be heard with a QSO, after closedown on the 250 watt transmitter, during his programmes John Dean reads a selection of news items from recent Free Radio publications, and returns the favour with regular advertisements for them including Weekly Report, Now Radio, Monitor and Wavelength. A revised schedule was announced on October 18th with WLR now being heard on the 2nd Sunday via Radio Rainbow on 6240, and on the 3rd, and 5th Sundays (When they occur) on 6318. A new station in the network from Scotland was promised on the groups 41 metre band channel of 7413 for the following week.

Other regular users of the 48 metre band channel are Radio Stella (2) and Radio Marabu (3+4)

October 18th saw the return of RADIO 49 INTERNATIONAL (no address noted) the station which closed shortly before the launch of Radio Pamela, they were noted on 6204 with a good signal in the United Kingdom. However the 6204 channel has been used by the Dutch station Superclan Radio, who with the exception of October 18th have broadcast a regular schedule for the past 2 months, including some weekday broadcasts.

BRITAIN RADIO (4+5) now on 6200kHz have announced plans for a future 2nd Sunday service which will concentrate on Oldies. Part of the sequence includes a listener's chart under the title Top Tracks. Listener's are invited to send in their personal Top Tens to compile the programme. It will be presented by Adrian Cooke.



RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (6) made an additional transmission on October 11th testing for modulation quality and signal strength. The frequency used was the station's new 6200 channel.

Reel to Reel Radio have made a number of broadcasts recently, although through no fault of their own have had some problems in finding a regular frequency. 6255, 6300 and 6210 have all been used. (7)

## IRELAND

RADIO RAINBOW (8) returned to full programming following the Radio Sovereign experiments, on September 6th. Kirren Murray's Free Radio show is aired at 1200 (Local Time) and this is followed an hour later by Headie Eddie's going back in time show. Normally some relays are also included before and after the Rainbow programmes.

On October 4th it was a well publicised broadcast from Radio Clash, with an alternative music programme. The station's promotional material stated that the broadcast was also being made on the other side of the Atlantic via WXIN, this also being announced on air. No address was noted.

WESTSIDE RADIO continue weekly on 6280 with a variety of rock Tracks, Free radio News and recordings. The station also broadcasts a number of relays including BEMS, Radio Southsea and Radio Hexagon. The excellent Prince Terry is 'behind the microphone' at Westside each week (9)

During their broadcast on August 30th Radio Hexagon (10) aired a programme recorded by Merseyside DJ Stephen Bishop from local station, Radio Atlantis. Stephen played excerpts from Laser 558 and its American counterpart Hot 103 amongst the music.

RADIO BUTTERCUP is a new station from the Republic who were heard for the very first time on September 20th-6273 was the channel. Buttercup announced that they were broadcasting from "Ireland to Europe" and a familiar voice gave out the "Moneymore, Drogheda" address (8) currently associated with Radio Rainbow. Radio Buttercup run a solid gold format and were heard again on October 11th.

SER-SLIGO EUROPEAN RADIC are another new Irish station, again with a Solid Gold format which is becoming as ubiquitous as Soul on FM in London. SER however has a good approach and we look forward to further transmissions. (11) 7413 was the frequency here.

## EUROPE

FRS HOLLAND (12) were heard celebrating their 7th Birthday over various transmitters on August 30th. The frequencies used were 6205, 6310 and 7310, although few listeners managed to log the station on all three channels. Extracts from past programmes were played and the transmission ended with an FRS Party. The broadcasts were repeated during September, which allowed station Manager Peter Verbruggen to put the finishing touches to the new FRS-H studio, completed after his recent house move. A Saturday broadcast was noted on 6205, October 10th, and the station was heard again for their regular 3rd Sunday Broadcast on October using 6220, although 6205 was announced on air. FRS-H had a moderate to good signal in the United Kingdom on this occasion. FRS Goes Dx is a monthly Publication from the station with news about the station and other Free Radio happenings, in addition a new sales list featuring audio tapes and videos will be available shortly.

RADIO TITANIC have also been celebrating - On September 6th when they made their 12th Anniversary broadcast. Sadly the transmission lacked in audio quality, producing a "Bathroom Effect". (12)

## ADDRESSBOOK

1. EM Broadcasting, London, WC1N 3XX.
2. 23 South Beechwood, Edinburgh, Scotland, EM12 5TR.
3. Postfach 220342, 5600 Wuppertal 22, West Germany.
4. Postbus 19074, 3501 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
5. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG.
6. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.
7. Po Box 140, Ashford, Kent.
8. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, Couth Louth, Eire.
9. 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin 9, Ireland.
10. 10 Fromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 3SP.
11. 66 St. Bridgids Place, Sligo, Eire.
12. Postbus 41 7700 AA, Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.

## LISTENER'S GUIDE

### TABLE OF REGULAR FREE RADIO BROADCASTERS - 48 Metres.

6200	Radio East Coast Commercial	GB	1st Sunday
	Britain Radio International	GB	4th, 5th Sundays (Proposed 2nd Sunday)
6204	Superclan Radio	NL	Every Sunday + Some weekdays.
6240	Radio Rainbow	E	Every Sunday
6280	Westside Radio	E	Every Sunday
6290	Radio Orion	GB	Every Saturday and Sunday.
6299	Spectrum Leisure Communications/Border Radio	GB	Every Sunday
6301	WFRL	GB	2nd Sunday
6304	Radio Kristel	GB	4th Sunday
6317	Scottish Free Radio Network/WLR	GB	Every Sunday

### Other regular stations with no fixed schedule.

6204	Radio Pamela	GB
6209	Riverside Radio	E
6275	Radio Waves International	F
6285	Radio Apollo	GB



## LONDON

## Andy Walker

Well here we are again, with another action packed look at London's lively airwaves, and to start with welcome back to RFL(RADIO FREE LONDON) back on every Sunday evening with some good album type rock music on 92.4 FM, and live programmes as well, no more taped shows - That's live with a mains buzz! Well they'll get around that hopefully. Weekender KISS FM now start broadcasting on Friday mornings, adding an extra day and still sounding as good as always. HORIZON RADIO, who I mentioned last week as just a bunch of lads with a rig jumping on the Soul bandwagon, have changed their name to CHICAGO 87, and the hottest news yet, and the hottest news yet, next year the name will change to Chicago 88. You read it first in Wavelength! The Man behind Chicago is Ex RFL,SLR,LWR etc, John Dawson. So what I hear you say! Well I'm only doing my job (Sorry Boss) Back to the (Yawn) Soul stations, TKO have moved up the band to 102.4FM with a better signal over London. Maybe it has something to do with the double aerial they have at their site in Crystal Palace? The rest of the news in London, is as usual On-Off etc, Newcomers RAIDERS FM on 97.8 have some of the best programming any pirate has had for a long time, but cannot be received very well where I live. Raiders play a fine mixture from the whole music spectrum. I must say that it's great to have an Oldies station on air in London once again. Hits FM 105.5 are on air Saturdays and Sundays playing a fine mixture of Classic Music of yesteryear.

Moving away from the pirates now. As many of you will know, we here in London are soon to have BBC Radio One on FM in Stereo on 104.8, this caters for the lowest form of radio listener, who wish to hear the delights of Simon Bates (Haaa), Gary Davis (Haaaaa), and Steve Wright (Gulp!) in Stereo, I thought AM was bad enough, hold on didn't the Government say there wasn't enough frequencies to go around? Oh, No sorry they were talking about pirate and Community radio stations using frequencies weren't they. I suppose they've got to keep the lower end of the listening market happy here, by putting Radio One on FM - and did you know Radio One has one million listeners here? You didn't All of them must read the Sun everyday as well, I don't do either.

A final piece just before we go to print, Tuesday October 20th, Tony Blackburn show on BBC Radio London, A Chap called Tony to wish Dennis Jason a Happy Birthday, then went on to tell him that he's been helping Dennis on Discos for a few years, and that Dennis has worked for a few Radio stations in his time "Oh Yes" said Tony "Yes" said the caller "He's been on Radio Jackie, Carol- in Butts Blackburn "Oh those pirate stations, don't be boring we don't talk about Pirate stations here!" Mr Blackburn used to speak up for Pirates, Not now, Why? Has he been told not to by his bosses? Tony do what they say not what you want to say, there's a good chap.

AW.

## MERSEYSIDE

A joint DTI/Police operation was launched on October 12th in an attempt to find Merseyside Free Radio on 105.9 who were creating severe splatter and had managed to cause interference to both the local Gas board and Mobile Doctor service. Publicity to this was given by the local ILR station Radio City during their newscasts following a telephone call to the station from the Gas Board asking if they knew anything about MFR. The station has also broadcast under the name of Slag-Off International, and must be condemned for such a foolish action.

Several Court cases have taken place recently Radio Merseywaves jock Dave Collins was fined £250 on September 16th. Records taken from the station were returned although transmitting equipment was withheld. Dave was also

given a two year conditional discharge, but the case against 9 other members of the station was adjourned. On September 30th Radio Merseyland DJ Rocksteady Eddie was fined in excess of £250 at his court case. Liverpool Pirate Radio DJ Phil Davies had a summons for October 14th, however his case was postponed until a date in November, as yet undecided.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES -1242kHz continue to broadcast although they have not been as regular as in the past with their transmissions, and some taped programmes have been broadcast in place of the usual live shows. When on the air Merseywaves has a Friday to Monday schedule.

RADIO ATLANTIS Chose to extend their broadcasting hours on August 24th, and the following day made a test broadcast with a view to returning to 7 days a week transmissions. However on Friday 29th at 11.57, during the Stephen Bishop programme the station left the air following a raid by the DTI. A return to the air was made on September 19th (Friday) and Atlantis continued to transmit over the weekend, but with a continuous 45 minute loop tape. Dave Ross and Mike Smith from the former Mersey FM joined the station at the end of September complete with 12 inch disco mixes.

Several frequency changes have been made over the past 2 months. Following their return to the air on September 19th, 976 replaced 936, but on September 26th a move was made to 1197 where Atlantis remain. An FM channel was also introduced on 96.25, however although announced is not continuously noted.

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, with no connection to the Short Wave station of the same name were first noted on September 27th on 1134 kHz. The format has the emphasis on music with very little chat. The schedule is for Saturdays and Sundays 11am to 4pm.

EASTHAM COMMUNITY RADIO are another new station. Their first broadcast was made on September 6th on 105FM with DJs Martin Stewart, Steve Mason and Chris Davis with a music format which excludes Disco running from Midday until 8pm. The station is running 15 watts into a half wave dipole. The studio equipment includes a Phonic MX7700 Mixer, Sharp record decks and Hitachi tape machines: A phone in taken during the first broadcast is reported as being a great success.

VERONICA 104 have been transmitting on Sunday Mornings from 11.00 to 2.00, and now include a Free Radio Bulletin during the Neil Frazer programme starting at 1200. The station continues to request help for transmitting and studio sites. Exact frequency is 104.75

NORTH COAST RADIO on 104.8 and 1350 operate from Friday to Sunday. Tim Jackson reports that on Friday 26th September the station was heard playing a tape of former Radio Merseywaves jock Dave Collins, which was later removed from the air and a statement given that Dave had now left Pirate Radio following recent events, the programme having been recorded in 1985, strange it included so many North Coast Radio identifications.

Other stations in the area include Concept Radio 104.3, Liverpool Pirate Radio 1404, DTI-FM 106.2 and Radio Veronica International on 1413.

with thanks to Neil Frazer, Tim Jackson, Martin Stewart and Allen Dean.

## COUNTRYWIDE

## WALES.

CABLE are operating on 96.2 to an area covering Anglesey, together with parts of North Wales including Bangor and the Llyn Peninsula. The current power is 50 watts, but there are plans for an additional Medium Wave outlet with 200 watts to improve reception on the Holy Island. The address is Po Box adwk 962, Valley Mill, Valley, Anglesey, Wales, LL65 3DP.

## EAST MIDLANDS:

## DERBY

RADIO FREEDOM 105 FM and 1242 kHz have not been heard since April.



## NOTTINGHAM

Despite promises of a return COSMOS RADIO has not been on the air since June 23rd.

## WEST MIDLANDS

PCRL (Birmingham) can be regularly logged in Nottingham on 103.5 FM. The best time to hear the station is from around 10pm onwards. The signal appears to be very strong and clear considering the distance travelled is over 45 miles.

## SHROPSHIRE

Sunshine Radio returned to the air on September 13th on their past frequency of 101.7kHz. Power is currently 20 watts, but there are plans to increase this up to 100 watts shortly.

## Mark Thyme

This is the first in a regular series of articles to help and encourage you to build your own broadcast equipment. Electronics is a field where it is not necessary to have a degree to build high quality equipment, and the experience gained by practical experiment will save time and money. This series will attempt to present some designs for basic, cost effective radio and audio equipment.

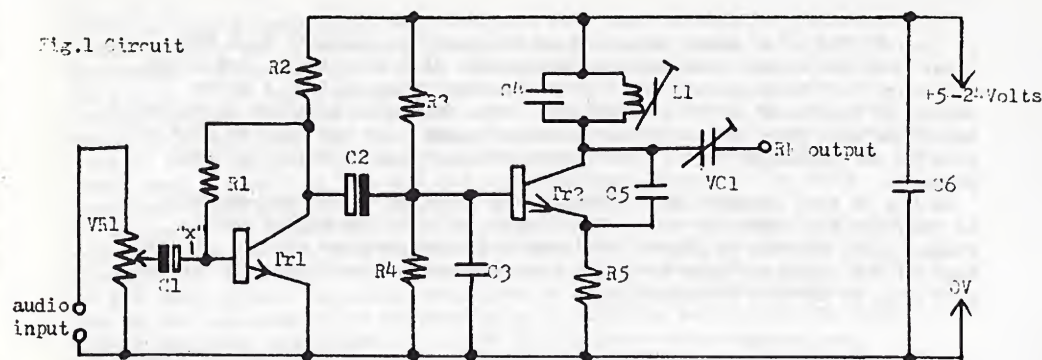
The series will try to explain the action of the various circuits with their accompanying diagrams, but there isn't enough space to cover the fundamental theory of electronics, which most of you will know; if not many texts are available.

Our first project is one anyone could build, a Low Power FM transmitter. This simple two transistor design can be used as a bug, a signal generator for test purposes or a low-power transmitter for special events. Even for listening to your expensive non-portable communications receiver all over the house!

The complete circuit is shown in Fig.1. It is a standard Colpitts oscillator, and is designed to work on frequencies around 50-200 MHz; the values given will be for the standard FM band, 88-108 MHz. The circuit will operate on voltages from 5-24 volts; more power output occurs with higher voltage, although this will depend on the actual transistor used. The audio signal is fed into the set deviation control VR1. This voltage is AC coupled to the audio amplifier/buffer Tr1, and this output is AC coupled to the oscillator transistor Tr2. This voltage is applied to the base of Tr2, and by slightly altering it the DC condition causes the frequency to swing around the central frequency, causing frequency modulation. R3 and R4 set the standing bias on Tr2, and C3 decouples the base at radio frequencies. The frequency of operation is determined by the tuned circuit C4/L1, and the latter is adjustable for tuning purposes. C5 is a small value for feedback, and is sometimes not needed. R5 sets the DC operating condition for Tr2 and will be an optimal value for the type of transistor used. VC1 is used to couple the RF output to the aerial, and to provide optimum loading of the circuit; this adjustment will also cause alteration of the output frequency. C6 decouples the supply rails to RF.

Construction of the circuit is not particularly critical, and can be on plain perforated board, vero stripboard or printed circuit. It is best to use the circuit diagram as the physical layout, and plain board would be best for a beginner. As we are dealing with RF, try to keep the component leads short, especially around Tr2. All the components are readily available, but if you don't have a local shop Cirkut or Maplin or other mail-order suppliers would have them. Depending on the supply voltage and Tr2 type, up to 500 mW output may be obtained. As the circuit is a free running oscillator, it must be built as rigidly as possible and frequency stability can be improved by building it into a metal case.

Fig.1 Circuit



Components List all resistors  $\frac{1}{4}$  carbon film or metal film; capacitors 35 volt DC

VR1 22K variable or preset	C1 4u7 elect or tant	VC1 22p foil trimmer
R1 2M2	C2 4u7 elect or tant	L1 318 coil, yellow; ferrite core
R2 4K7	C3 1n ceramic	Tr1 BC549 or similar e.g. BC109
R3 10K	C4 15p ceramic	Tr2 2N2219, 2N2222, or 2N2219
R4 10K	C5 4p7 ceramic	Optional; battery connector,
R5 470R-100R (depending on Tr2)	C6 10n ceramic	audio and RF sockets, heatsink (Tr2)

### SETTING UP AND OPERATION.

Carefully check all connections and connect to a DC supply. If you are not using a battery, then a regulated mains supply should be used to avoid any frequency modulation of the DC rail at 50Hz. Tune an FM receiver to a clear spot on the dial, and if you slowly adjust the core of L1 (using the proper S18 trim tool) you should hear the noise level on the set drop at least one point. Connect a source of audio, a mike or tape player is fine, tune the audio in and hey presto, you should now hear it on the radio. If you turn up VR1 too far, you will note that the sound on the radio may become distorted, owing to the deviation level being above the nominal  $\pm 75$  KHz. If in doubt adjust so the level is about the same as a local broadcast station.

If you wish to extend the range of the unit, it will be necessary to connect an aerial to VC1. This can be a simple piece of wire, say 75cm or 37cm long. It is also possible to connect an outdoor dipole, in which case use a co-axial cable, with the inner wire going to VC1, and the braid connected to the + or - supply. You can if you wish connect a power metre in the line, and adjust VC1 for maximum output, note this will also cause a change in the frequency, so it will be necessary to adjust L1 at the same time.

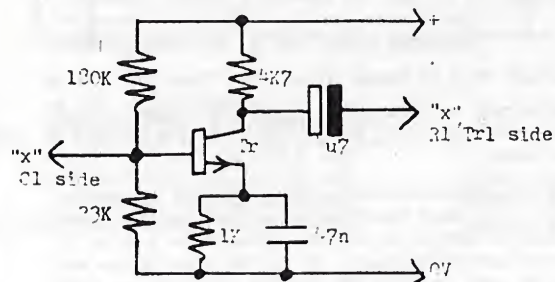
If you exceed the maximum ratings for Tr2 by using a high supply voltage with too low a value of R5, then Tr2 could overheat and be damaged. In this circuit the 2N2219 probably gives the highest output. Even R5 at 100R, there should be no problems as long as Tr2 has a clip-on heatsink (TO-39 for 2N2219, TO-18 for 2N2222 or 2N2369) which you should fit if the device gets too hot.

Earlier I mentioned that the circuit would work from 50-200 MHz, so if you would like operation on these frequencies all that is required is to change L1, the inductance of these coils is determined by a colour code; so white should operate at 50MHz, and red at 150 MHz; consult the Cirkut catalogue. You will also be able to change the frequency by using an aluminium core instead of a ferrite one or by altering the value of C4. If you have access to a frequency counter you will find out the exact frequency of the oscillator, as it is possible to tune the receiver to a harmon-



ic (e.g. X2, X3) or an image generated in the receiver (usually 21.4 MHz lower than the actual frequency) so be warned. Also note if you are using a battery for the supply, it is inevitable that there will be a minor change in frequency as the battery runs down. Generally alkaline or ni-cad batteries will give better life at lower voltages. You may also be able to pick up the harmonics on a TV set nearby making the unit handy for test purposes.

In the UK both FM radio and TV sound have a system called pre-emphasis to increase the signal to noise ratio, especially at the higher audio frequencies. Without it some of the high audio frequencies will be attenuated at the receiver. Here is a basic pre-emphasis circuit that can be used with this or another FM transmitter.



With reference to Fig.1, break the connection at C1, R1, Tr1, and insert this circuit for pre-emphasis. Tr1 is BC549, BC109 etc.

Also note that this circuit can also be used as a pre amplifier for weak audio signals, e.g. moving-coil microphone. Replace the 47nF ceramic/polyester capacitor with a 47uF electrolytic or tantalum, with the negative connection going to 0V.

Well I hope the above has fired your enthusiasm. In future articles we will feature more advanced designs for FM transmitters, power amplifiers and also AM transmitters for MW and SW, plus link receivers, audio limiters and stereo coders. Also DIY test gear and special power supplies and antennas. Till next time 73 from Mark.

## MARTIN BLOCK with Steve West

The Irish Governments have over the past few years made numerous attempts to close down the country's unlicensed radio stations, yet despite this they continue to flourish, not least in Dublin where the large commercial stations like Q102, Sunshine and Energy have technical standards which would certainly pass any IBA test. In recent weeks September was sited as the month the government would finally bring in new regulations. One of the people behind the running of Q102 is Martin Block who spoke to Steve West about his idea of how the shape of radio in Ireland could be formed.

"I'm not saying they're going to close them down, what they're actually going to do is that they're going to bring a bill before parliament in the autumn which would effectively bring in some form of legislation and legalise commercial radio now whether pirate stations would close down at that point but it looks rather certain that something's going to happen before the beginning of January".

But what form would the stations take, and what are the possibilities of the present stations remaining on the air within a new framework, perhaps similar to the IBA in Britain?

"I actually reckon that they will go for something like the American style of broadcasting, more free enterprise then perhaps there is a chance that the stations as they stand may be able to apply for a licence but its very hard to say what shape and form the legislation may actually take.

There is a good possibility that stations like Q102, Energy and Sunshine could actually get a licence it really depends on the broad outlines the government brings in this bill it does appear though that they will bring in a bill in the early autumn which will bring in a form of legislation banning pirate radio, perhaps with say a timescale of three or four months which would say that they must cease operating by then. . . I could imagine that it could be like the American network which is free enterprise, on the other hand it could be like the ILR stations, and therefore the whole structure would change its very very speculative at this stage."

"So you're not sure whether or not they'll be a separate regulatory body set up to oversee all this business, either like the FCC in the United States which will inspect the stations just to make sure that they conform to the basic preset technical conditions or it will be like the IBA in the UK who will administer everything to do with the radio stations themselves including the transmitters and all."

"It seems to be that form of radio hasn't really worked that well. It really depends how the Government act if they look upon the British networks and really analyse them carefully I think they'll try and avoid that particular thing and probably go for a more free enterprise situation, although I do imagine that with pressure from RTE and unions you could well and truly have a situation like that I hope not because I think it would be a very disappointing form of radio. The one thing is that there has been a commission set up, as you're probably aware, now if the present Government decide to enact the legislation which the previous government were going to bring in it could be like the ILR stations in Britain, I hope not, I think that there has been so much time and effort put in and so much popularity in the pirate radio situation here that it would be a shame to destroy it, yet we all do work within a certain guideline and it that respect I suppose that is the nature of the business., I mean perhaps you will have different formatted stations like Top 40, MOR, Rock, Classical and hopefully that would be the only sort of guidelines that would be demanded in that situation, rather than saying you can only play so many records per hour."

"Most of the complaints from RTE and some other people as well seem to have concerned the interference caused by statics. If you tune around the band, FM and Medium Wave, and you can include some parts of the short wave you can hear harmonics and mixing problems all over the place, but the main comment we've had from a lot of people is 'OK like Q102 we can go and spend thousands of pounds on building a decent studio, buying decent transmitters and everything else, but whats the chance of being able to keep it if the new legislation comes in."

"That is the \$65,000 question - I don't think anybody knows. The way it looks at the moment people would be stupid to spend money now on opening a new radio station. As for interference the Government has actually said they will not close down any radio stations that actually have, for example proper 'spec' equipment if however there are stations who are interfering in the emergency bands then they could be closed down."

In recent months both Kiss FM and Boyneside Radio had their transmitters closed as a result of alleged interference, although there seems to be little evidence to support the claim of mass interference by Ireland's pirate stations. What did Martin think of this, and closure as a result?

"Basically what the Government have said is that they will not close down any of the pirate radio stations at this moment in time until legislation has actually been enacted, unless these stations are interfering with the emergency services in those two cases you mentioned apparently they were, Now I know for a fact that if this station was interfering then we would be in a lot of trouble, or any other station, but providing you work within the guidelines, of what guidelines there are and you keep your nose clean, then we all should be in business at least until they bring in this law."



## Neil Frazer

The WAVELENGTH Mailbag has certainly been bulging since the two articles about Medium Wave and FM stations around Merseyside. The majority of writers seem to agree that the endless diet of Dance/Disco music from unlicensed stations in Merseyside is as bad as the ethnic output from unlicensed London stations.

In reply to some comments I must say that I do like Dance/Disco Music. I can really enjoy the "High Energy" type of music as well, but the local DJs spoil it all by their poor presentation style. Screaming over the mike when the next gig will be. Also the "That was, This is" type of DJing is an insult to the few good tracks that you hear.

Having said that it would be just as bad if every station played a Rock or Top Forty format. The freedom of choice, the escape from the computer controlled playlist is the biggest plus factor in the Free Radio station's favour. Yet this is the most unused aspect of Free Radio I can think of.

If you are thinking of starting a non-specialist music station you will have to examine your record collection long before you go on air. Of course you will play some chart music, some LP tracks and some Golden Oldies, won't you? Allow 15 records per hour, drop the chart singles that will be replayed by several jocks and you will need at least 70 records for a six hour Sunday station. Your listener will soon recognise the same records no matter what order you play them in so a minimum of 250 records for a month's programmes is the usual starting point.

A good source for 60s and 70s classics is the Reader's Digest collections. From memory this will give you 200 plus tracks. For more 60s hits check out FW Woolworths. If you want more 60s music your problems start now. Producers of the various compilation LPs go for the same mix of hit records, plus one or two obscure artists, so expect your collection to have three or more copies of the same song on them. WH Smith have a good Golden Oldies catalogue, at today's prices. Original 60s singles and LPs today tend to be in poor condition so steer clear of them. A further source of inspiration is the Caroline Top 500. This music covers the entire spectrum of pop sounds from the 60s through to the early 80s. As the chart was compiled by DJ and listener favourites you can't go far wrong with it.

What about the listener? The What! A lot of DJs behave as if no one is listening. They just could be right. Even if the local DTI man is the only person tuned in to you why should he be treated to some of the verbal garbage flying round the airwaves at present. Remember he cannot stop listening to you - he is paid to sit and suffer. The more he suffers the sooner you go off the airwaves. The listener should be your whole reason for being on air. If he or she likes your station format, expand your station playlist within that format Don't just play requests to compile a station hit list.

Even a pirate radio station should have someone in charge of the music the station plays. No fancy titles are needed, just a person who has a fair knowledge of music and can carry some authority amongst the jocks. Just a few minutes listening to some stations around Merseyside can demonstrate the impossibility of such a hope.

Remember though, some of the country's most successful land based pirates have had a Head of Music. I don't mind copying a good idea, Why don't others?

ELECTRON ELECTRONICS PRESENT AN OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO WAVELENGTH READERS.

The Chance to receive a Voucher for two people entitling you to a Free Weekends Hotel Accommodation in any one of 200 Superb Hotels in Great Britain and the opportunity for up to 14 nights Free Hotel accommodation in over 300 Hotels in Great Britain and Europe, including Ireland and the Channel Islands, together with Free Meals at over 600 restaurants throughout Great Britain and Ireland, for a limitless number of times up to a specified date. To get a chance at all this just make an enquiry about the range of Transmitters available from Electron.

Write to 6 Mountjoy Parade, N.C.R. Dublin 1, Ireland. or  
Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk. PE36 5AU. Quoting this advertisement.

## Adrian Cooke

### RAIDED; PAMELA & RADAR

On Sunday 13th September, The Department of Trade and Industry carried out a series of raids in the Kent area. Short wave and medium wave station Radio Radar were raided at 1300 - at the time Radar were operating on Short wave at a frequency of 6761 kHz with a power of 25 watts. Following this the station moved to Radio Pamela, in Chatham which they had only heard operating whilst tracking Radio Radar. Although the DTI knew of Pamela's Medium Wave broadcasts they were previously unaware of the Short Wave transmissions. This is surprising as the station's 50 watt transmitter had been widely reported in many Free Radio Publications, which one would have thought the DTI were aware of.

The two DTI officials and two Policemen arrived at Radio Pamela at 1345, just as the station had completed a QSO with Irish station Westside Radio. They were able to walk straight in to the building as one of the other tenants had left the door open. Station Manager Steve Most was informed of his rights, however as the raid was unplanned no warrant was produced. Receipts were issued for the list of equipment taken, which was;

3 Power supplies, 1 Radio receiver, 2 record decks, 3 Cassette Units, 1 Mixer, 1 Stereo Tuner, 1 amplifier, 2 CB Radios, 1 Walkie Talkie, 35 listeners letters and 1 microphone. In addition to the transmitting equipment of 1 50 Watt Shortwave transmitter and 1 125 watt Medium Wave transmitter. The DTI stated that they would have no objection to the return of all the studio equipment, but that they must keep the transmitters and power supplies. Records and Programme tapes were left. At his protests against taking such a large amount of equipment Steve was not that if they thought any of it had been used for the station at any time it must be removed. The DTI left after 45 minutes and one of the Police officers commented that Steve had been a fool to himself, as he was not known about on Shortwave. The DTI had been monitoring the Medium Wave transmissions for some months, and the first question the DTI asked him was, when was the last time he had used medium wave.

Pamela managed a low power broadcast on September 20th, using a power of only 4 watts, despite this they were heard in Ireland, and in London.

### RADIO ORION COURT CASE

The hearing took place before Sutton Coldfield Magistrates Court on September 14th. The affidavits of three officers from the Department of Trade and Industry was produced as evidence, the officers not being present in court themselves, although it is believed that the Department sent an observer to the court. Having been caught whilst the station was broadcasting Orion's station Manager Mike Wilson pleaded guilty on all four offences which he was charged with. Mike was ordered to pay £50 for each offence and £125 costs. A total of £325. The maximum fine is currently £2,000 for each offence, and the DTI had asked for £560, claiming that it had taken 15 hours manpower to track Orion down to their location.

Mike Wilson told WAVELENGTH of the Court's lack of knowledge of the charges before them "I was annoyed to go into a Court of Law, where nobody seemed to know why I was there or exactly what offences I had committed". At one point the prosecution spoke of Mike not have a CB licence to a totally bemused courtroom.



MUSIC RADIO has come a long way in Britain since its rebirth at Easter 1964- Or has it? Radio Caroline first brought us music with the DJ format, but it was Radio London, at Christmas of the same year which actually brought us Top 40 radio, with their Fab 40. In 1967 the Marine Offences Act led to the closure of all but two of the offshore stations, Radio Caroline North and Radio Caroline South. On September 30th of that year the BBC, with some gentle persuasion from the British Government reorganised their Radio services, this included the introduction of Radio One, together with the start of BBC local radio. Of course in the 1970s there were still some offshore operators RNI, and later the return of Caroline. In the meantime Radio One became a carbon copy of Radio London, whilst the local stations reflected Radio Two, the former light programme- and with the music to match. Top 40 continued to prevail. During the early seventies preparations were made for the start of Independent Local Radio-ILR. However throughout all this the Top 40 format still remained, and today in 1987 we still have the same problem. The Independent Radio network now covers a large majority of the United Kingdom, but daytime programming, and to some extent into the evening as well the stations still provide the same Top 40 format, and it does not stop there.

Jocks Magazine, published monthly by Spotlight Publications shows which records are being featured in 15 'Typical' ILR stations together with Radio One and Radio Luxembourg. For our research we have used the May 1987 edition featuring the week commencing April 13th. 75 records are listed, and out of these just one fifth receive playlisting on five or less stations. The only trend which we could find was that Picadilly Radio in Manchester was often among the stations playing these records, although not at the expense of any of the higher chart placings. So where does this lead to? Our brief analysis is by no means conclusive, but it does show that the mainstay of British Radio is still well and truly dominated by the Top 40, this at a time when the sales of 7 inch singles in the United Kingdom is falling in favour of the long players, more particularly cassettes, and the relatively new music format of Compact Disc, which is fast gaining ground. Yet record companies rely on the airplay of singles to promote the albums on which they make their money (NB Some record dealers sell 7 inch records at a loss) However unlike the days of Radio Luxembourg's sponsored shows for the likes of Decca and EMI, Radio stations are paying the record companies through the royalties we associate with 'Needletime'. Are the radio stations still as restrictive as they were in the sixties when Luxembourg refused airplay for Ronan O'Rahilly's Georgie Fame single? Notwithstanding it could be argued that 'Popular' Top 40 music is only popular because there is no other form of contemporary music on tap for the listening public to hear.

It is then often in presentation and the choice of which 'Oldies' fill the gaps between the forty which can denote the character of a particular station, speech content is an important factor and can seriously affect the pace of a station. Two notable stations have used this to their advantage. In Ireland ABC Radio, Waterford, and in the county of Kent Invicta Radio. By limiting the duration of speech items, the pace has been held, likewise, whatever you may think of his humour Radio One's Steve Wright keeps the pace going with his comical inserts.

It would be unfair to say that Britain's radio output contains nothing but Top 40 stations. Of course there is Radio Three for Classical music, Radio Four features News and Drama, and Radio Two. Over the past few years the BBC's easy listening station has moved further away from the lighter end of the Top 40 and at times one could almost believe you are back with the old Light Programme, where personalities have replaced the DJs, this is further indicated by the increase in speech content with an increase in the speech content. With Radio One aiming at the 16 to 24 age group there is a large gap between this and the Radio Two listenership which begins at the early 40s.

When Capital Radio opened in 1974 they were convinced that their album format would be a success, the critics enjoyed it but the public, and more importantly perhaps, the advertisers did not. Likewise Radio Caroline,

which has also used an album format has tried many musical ideas. From the Summer of 1984 Laser 558 gave a new lease of life to the old Top 40 format, their fast American presentation was something which the British public had probably not heard since the sixties. However although the presentation was new the music was for the most part the same as could be heard on the National BBC Network and the ILR stations around the country, again what was different was the pace, and this time very little talk. The promise to the listener was that they would be 'Never more than a minute away from music'

Once again you must go back to Free Radio's grass roots to find a station which really will try something different. Perhaps the most well known example of this is the station-Radio Sovereign, conceived by Crispian St. John and John Kenning. Radio Sovereign broadcast to Twickenham with a solid gold format and some of those long lost Pams Jingles, resung for the station, but as with all stations who try to challenge the accepted mould of broadcasting the station was forced to close in January 1984 but not before it had taken a reputed quarter of the listeners from Capital Radio in a 25 mile radius of Twickenham, despite some raids. In its first six months the station had a turnover of £26,000.

In London the band is still full of stations all wanting to break the mould, and all repeatedly raided, many are Soul stations, such as Solar and TKO, although there are others for the various ethnic groups like London Greek Radio, and other smaller stations prevail outside London, all wanting to share the band, yet many of these present the same Top 40 format which can already be heard on the licenced stations, using themselves only as an outlet for their own egos.

Many people in Britain desire a system similar to that of America, Radio for Radio's sake, but in the 23 years since the early offshore stations we have certainly gained more stations, but very little variety, and ego trippers aside it would be an insult to the professionalism of those commercially run stations who have worked with their audience to simply multiply once more without consideration for an audience whose musical tastes continue to diversify.

## Adrian Cooke

Over the past few years the portion of the 48 metre band normally used by the Sunday Morning Free Radio stations has become increasingly overcrowded, caused partly by long skip conditions, which have made the 41 metre band largely unusable. Although the station's obviously do not have a frequency allocated to them, they do understandably adopt what they regard as 'their' channel. This has heightened two recent incidents.

No one would deny that Radio Rainbow on 6240 have both an excellent signal within the United Kingdom and superb audio quality to match. However both Radio East Coast Commercial and Britain Radio International, who use 6230 claim that the splatter from Rainbow's transmissions have interfered enough to cause difficulties in reception for their listeners. RECC's Norman Nelson told WAVELENGTH that even 6225 was unusable. On September 27th both Britain Radio and East Coast Commercial tested 6200, not an ideal frequency as stations in the official broadcast band on 6195 cannot easily be separated on a normal domestic Short Wave receiver. During their broadcast BRI broadcast a recorded announcement stating their reason for the move, and that they had no other choice whilst Rainbow continued to have such a wide bandwidth. It was suggested that listeners should write to Rainbow expressing their feelings on the matter. A similar announcement was broadcast by RECC in their test which followed BRI's broadcast, and again during their regular 1st Sunday transmission the following week.

Understandably Rainbow have reacted to this and during his Free Radio programme Kieran Murray spoke of a "Campaign against Rainbow organised by English Free Radio Stations", and asked why they had not been contacted. A question WAVELENGTH put to Norman Nelson, who informed us that the station's Dk editor Neal West had written to the station some six months previous, but